

Appl. No.: 10/531,336  
Reply to Office Action of: 05/05/2006

REMARKS

Claims 10, 11 and 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Aoki et al. (US 5,397,247) in view of Robb et al. (US 3,065,446). The examiner is requested to reconsider this rejection.

The examiner objected to claim 12 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that it would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 10 has been amended above to clarify applicants' claimed invention. Claim 10 claims that the at least one spring element presses the second ribbon conductor against the ribs. Claim 12 has been amended in view of this amendment to claim 10. Aoki et al. and Robb et al. do not disclose or suggest a spring element which presses a second ribbon conductor against the ribs of the holder. Item "10" in Aoki et al. is a connection terminal; not a spring for pressing a first flex conductor against a second flex conductor. Spring 35 in Robb et al. presses one of the flex cables against the other flex cable, but there is no disclosure or suggestion of spring 35 pressing the flex cable 13 against ribs of the connector member 11. The features of claim 10 are not disclosed or suggested in the art of record. Therefore, claim 10 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though dependent claims 11-15 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 10. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

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Claims 16-18 have been added above to claim the features recited therein.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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7/27/06  
Date

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